United Nations A/59/732–S/2005/150

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
9 March 2005

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 53
Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

Security Council
Sixtieth year

Letter dated 7 March 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that Japan is attempting to do its utmost to occupy a permanent seat on the Security Council of the United Nations.

Japan's permanent membership of the Security Council cannot be tolerated at all as it contravenes the main mission of the United Nations, considering its past crimes against humanity, today's revival of its militarism and threats to its neighbouring countries.

Japan has committed tremendous crimes against humanity.

In Korea only, Japan forcibly drafted and abducted 8.4 million, massacred 1 million and forced 200,000 women into sex slavery for the Japanese army, dragging them to the battlefields, and plundered natural resources and cultural assets. Japan also committed most heinous destruction, plunder and homicide everywhere in Asia it invaded.

Even 60 years after its defeat, Japan has not liquidated its sanguinary and ignominious past crimes, but is resurrecting militaristic hallucination, turning its whole society to the right, with a view to realizing the old dream of "great Asia co-prosperity sphere".

Japan is arming the young generation ideologically and mentally to repeat past crimes by beautifying its war of aggression as a war of liberation for the Asian countries. Cabinet ministers are regularly visiting the "Yasguni shrine" to pay tribute to war criminals to inspire its people with militaristic ideas, despite the strong protest and opposition of Asian countries.

Japan has serious security problems with its neighbouring countries and poses a substantial threat to the north-east Asia region.

05-26287 (E) 110305

Japan has officially designated as threats its geographically closest neighbours, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which it occupied and on which it forced agony and humiliation in the first half of the twentieth century, and is accelerating war preparations, on the pretext of preventing the threats.

Today, Japan has the second largest military expenditure after the United States and is stepping up readiness for overseas invasion by modernizing and repositioning its military equipment.

Especially, it has completed the drafting of an "emergency law" setting the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as its main target, and hastens the formation of combat troops of "self-defence forces" for the realization of the western priority strategy in case of emergency on the Korean peninsula, while its high-level officials are openly making belligerent remarks about a pre-emptive attack against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Liquidation of past crimes is the essence of the Pyongyang Declaration adopted in 2002 by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan. This notwithstanding, Japan incites hostile awareness against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, creating an anti-Democratic People's Republic of Korea atmosphere in its society in the context of "abduction and nuclear issues".

Japan is not only crying recklessly for pressure to bring the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to its knees, but also practically moving to economic sanctions to stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in collaboration with the United States.

At the same time, extreme right-wing forces in Japan are making territorial claims to Tok Islet, a Korean territory, publishing postage stamps and conducting a mock raid on it, rousing fears that it may use this for invasion of Korea at any time.

I could not but express concern over the fact that Japan is demanding its right to a permanent seat on the Security Council for its contribution to the United Nations budget, and some countries are leaning to support it for its purse.

The United Nations is not a financial corporate company where votes are weighted according to the contribution, but a political organization of peace and security based on sovereign equality. Permanent seats are not to be bought and sold.

In order for Japan to honestly contribute to the prosperity of mankind, it should sincerely reflect on its past crimes, make adequate compensation and show its firm commitment to the international community not to repeat the past again.

Japan was branded an "enemy state" when the United Nations was founded on the ravages of the Second World War. If the international community permits Japan to occupy a permanent seat, even though it has not liquidated its past crimes, world history will no longer advance, particularly in the north-east Asian region, and humanity suffer another holocaust.

Since Japan has neither sincerely reflected on its past, nor compensated, but poses a threat to north-east Asia, I would like to reiterate that Japan cannot become a permanent member of the Security Council, which deals with global peace and security, and that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea strongly opposes any expansion of the Security Council which includes Japan's membership.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 53, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Pak** Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Representative